

Message Text

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ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

ERDA-05 OES-03 ACDA-05 OMB-01 SAJ-01 /074 W

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R 291613Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6913

INFO CNO

CINCLANTFLT

USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L THE HAGUE 5499

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, MNUC, NL

SUBJECT: PORT VISIT OF USS CALIFORNIA

REF: (A) STATE 191494 131442Z AUG 75; (B) STATE 207034 300031Z
AUG 1975

1. SUMMARY: CALIFORNIA VISIT HAS BEEN SUCCESSFUL AND OPENED WAY FOR FURTHER US NPW VISITS TO NETHERLANDS. GON HAS DISPLAYED HIGH DEGREE OF FLEXIBILITY TO MAKE VISIT POSSIBLE ON OUR TERMS. END SUMMARY

2. OUR ASSESSMENT, BASED ON INFORMAL CONTACTS WITH BOTH MFA AND NETHERLANDS NAVY SOURCES, AS WELL AS ON OUR OWN OBSERVATIONS, IS THAT PORT VISIT OF USS CALIFORNIA HAS BEEN QUITE SUCCESSFUL.

3. VISIT RECEIVED JUST THE RIGHT AMOUNT OF PUBLIC NOTICE, ON A PAR WITH THAT USUALLY GIVEN TO SIMILAR NON-NPW VISITS IN DUTCH PORTS. ELEMENT OF NUCLEAR PROPULSION, WHICH OUT IN THE OPEN, DID NOT ATTRACT UNDUE OR NEGATIVE ATTENTION. HOSPITALITY OF ADMIRAL BAGLEY AND CALIFORNIA'S OFFICERS AND MEN TO DUTCH PARLIAMENTARY, MFA, MOD AND PRESS REPRESENTATIVES WAS WELL RECEIVED, GREATLY APPRECIATED, AND OF UNQUESTIONABLE HELP IN CONVEYING TO
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DUTCH VISITORS SENSE THAT THIS SORT OF VISIT IS NOTHING TO BE

AFRAID OF.

4. DESPITE DUTCH SENSITIVITY ON NUCLEAR ISSUES, GON IN THE END AGREED TO HANDLE VISIT ON BASIS OF US STANDARD STATEMENT, THUS OPENING THE WAY FOR FURTHER VISITS OF NPW'S ON SAME BASIS. THE FACT THAT BOTH FONMIN AND DEFMIN PERSONALLY FAVORED VISIT HELPED A GREAT DEAL IN BREAKING THROUGH LOG JAM OF LEGISLATION AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS WHICH, IF THESE HAD BEEN STRICTLY APPLIED, WOULD PROBABLY NOT HAVE MADE IT POSSIBLE TO HAVE THE VISIT ON THE BASIS OF THE STANDARD STATEMENT. NAVY AND MFA WORKING LEVELS WERE ESPECIALLY HELPFUL IN WORKING THINGS OUT FOR US. IN DOING SO, DUTCH OFFICIALDOM WENT CONSIDERABLE DISTANCE IN CLARIFYING FOR ITSELF HOW TO COME TO TERMS WITH ISSUES INVOLVING RECEPTIVITY BY NETHERLANDS, AS LARGE TRADING NATION WITH VAST PORT FACILITIES, OF FACT OF INCREASING USE OF NUCLEAR POWER FOR PROPULSION OF WAR AND MERCHANT VESSELS.

5. IN REVIEWING NEGOTIATING SEQUENCE LEADING UP TO THE VISIT, IT HAS STRUCK US THAT WE WOULD HAVE BEEN IN A SOMEWHAT BETTER TACTICAL POSITION HAD WE BEEN ABLE TO LAY OUT IN FULL ALL THE CONSIDERATIONS ON OUR SIDE CONTAINED IN STATE 207034 AT THE OUTSET. IN THIS CASE, OF COURSE, WE MADE INITIAL APPROACH ON THE BASIS OF STATE 191494. THIS RESULTED IN TOP-LEVEL APPROVAL FOR IDEA OF VISIT ON THE BASIS OF CONDITIONS WHICH WE SUBSEQUENTLY HAD TO SAY WE WERE UNABLE TO ACCEPT. WE WERE FORTUNATE THAT FOR ONCE, DUTCH PROVED TO BE EXTREMELY FLEXIBLE, AS WELL AS MORE TRADITIONALLY ACCOMMODATING.

6. OUR ESTIMATE IS THAT WE CAN USE SUCCESSFUL CALIFORNIA VISIT AS A BASIS FOR GRADUALLY ACCUSTOMING GON AS WELL AS DUTCH PUBLIC TO NPW VISITS AND THAT WE SHOULD, IN DUE COURSE, AND AFTER INFORMAL CONSULTATION WITH COMPETENT NAVY AND OTHER AUTHORITIES, SUGGEST ANOTHER NPW VISIT. RNL NAVY CHIEF OF STAFF IN FACT HAS INFORMALLY SUGGESTED WE SCHEDULE ANOTHER VISIT IN A MONTH OR TWO.
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